(c) whether the EPFO is aware that ONGC has recently withdrawn its placements amounting to Rs. 1500 crores with IDBI and reinvested it elsewhere; and

(d) if so, what precautions are being taken to secure the EPFO deposits with IDBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Ministry is keeping watch over the EPFO deposits with IDBI.

Consumer Price Index

1639. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new series of consumer price index is in the offing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new index would be beneficial to the workers and employees; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The exercise relating to compilation of new series of consumer price index numbers for industrial workers with proposed base of 2001 is at advanced stages. The weighting diagrams have been finalised on the basis of results of the Income & Expenditure Survey conducted during September 1999 to August 2000 at 78 centres. The price data are also being regularly collected/updated in respect of selected items, specifications, markets etc. The new series is likely to be available in 2003.

(c) and (d) The new index would be of immense use to the workers and employees as it would help them to receive their wages and variable dearness allowance on the basis of latest consumption pattern and prices.